

WASHINGTON, DC—Today, May 4, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) voted in support of H.Con.Res 111, a resolution recognizing the historic significance of the 61st anniversary of the re-establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people. The measure reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past 61 years, and commits to strengthening those bonds. The measure passed 394 – 0.

“I have visited Israel at least five times and to have seen firsthand the courage and steadfast resolve of its people,” said Congressman Sestak. “Throughout Israel’s 61-year history, Israelis have fought overwhelming odds to re-establish the birthplace of the Jewish People. Though constantly tested by those who seek to sow strife and division, Israel continues to work toward its goals of peace and security.”

The measure recognizes Israel’s independence as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people and congratulates Israel’s people as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel’s independence.

The measure commends the bipartisan commitment of all U.S. Administrations and Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being. It also congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral relations in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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